

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 55

WEEKEND EDITION // FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

ONE DOLLAR

Shipwreck searchers scan Oswald West for Beeswax



The crew aboard Sovereign look for a good spot to drop anchor, deploy underwater robots and search for the wreck of a Spanish galleon among the rocks off Cape Falcon.

Photos by Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The legend stretches back to the early 19th century

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

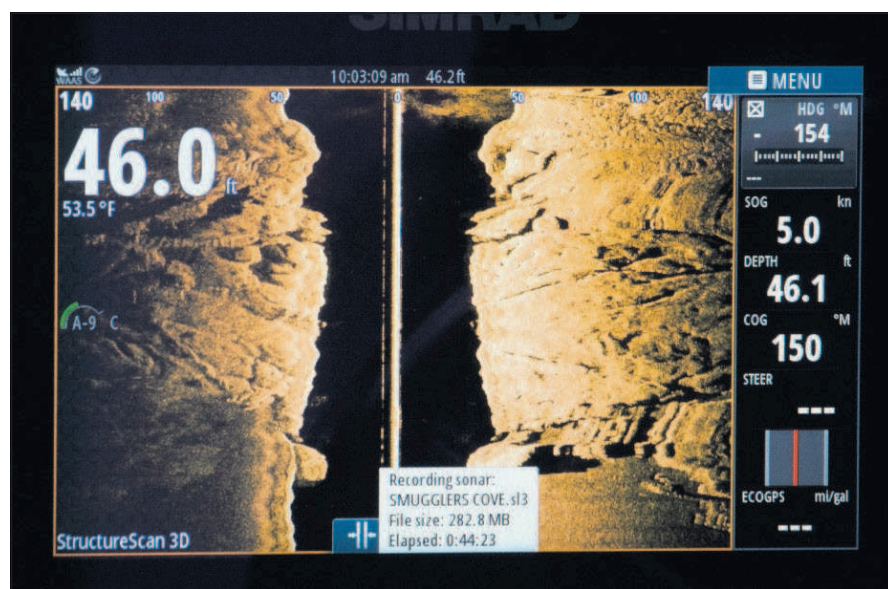
OSWALD WEST STATE PARK — The side-scan sonar on the hull of Bob Magie's chartered catamaran Sovereign painted an image of a rocky seabed beneath the hulking mass of Neahkahnie Mountain, just south of Short Sands beach.

He and Chris Dewey, president of the Maritime Archaeological Society, looked for pieces of hull, a mast — any sign of a shipwreck they believe rests off the coast.

Sonar scans, magnetometer spikes and brief glimpses during dives have led researchers repeatedly to the rocky shores off Oswald West. Based on artifacts, historical ship records and beach-comber discoveries, the archaeological society believes the so-called "Beeswax" wreck is the Santo Cristo de Burgos, a 17th-century Spanish galleon sailing from the Philippines to Mexico.

The society was funded for a week of field operations in the ocean on Magie's boat by a \$6,600 Preserving Oregon Grant from the State Historic Preservation Office. But uncooperative sea conditions and broken magnetometers limited the researchers to two days on the sea.

See BEESWAX, Page 6A



Researchers with the Maritime Archaeological Society used sonar aboard the chartered vessel Sovereign to create underwater 3D topographic models in the search for pieces of shipwreck off Smugglers Cove.



Maritime Archaeological Society members Chris Dewey, left, and Tim Stentz load the Clatsop Community College underwater robot Lazarus before a search last week for the Beeswax shipwreck.

Gearhart denies Dollar General

Planning Commission found issues with parking

By BRENNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Plans for another Dollar General on the North Coast are in limbo after the Gearhart Planning Commission on Thursday denied a parking variance request from the developers.

Cross Development hopes to build the 9,100-square-foot store in a vacant lot off U.S. Highway 101 and Pacific Way, across from Fultano's Pizza and Bowling. Mike Stults of Cross Development sought a parking variance to reduce the number of parking spots required by the city code from 46 to 27, arguing the business would not generate enough traffic to warrant that many.

The Planning Commission took issue with many aspects of Cross Development's application, including what city staff determined to be inadequate or incomplete plans for stormwater drainage, signage, septic systems, traffic congestion and other factors.

See GEARHART, Page 7A

Forestry 'militia' steps up to fight fires

State model draws staff from many jobs

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Over the course of 38 years at the Oregon Department of Forestry, Roger Welty has watched the department go from spotting fires from atop lookout towers to detecting fire with drones.

These days, Welty, a former forester, can be found manning the front desk at the department's Salem headquarters and doing "other duties as assigned."

He's used to the variety.

Although most of his work as a forester in the Astoria district concerned the ins and outs of forest management, Welty also responded to wildfires come summer, when dry conditions and high temperatures can set Oregon's forests ablaze.



Roger Welty

See FORESTRY 'MILITIA', Page 7A

Author of state song gets new headstone in Warrenton



Carol Lambert

John A. Buchanan, a former Astoria judge and author of the state's song, 'Oregon, My Oregon,' was also an artillery commander and judge advocate in the Oregon National Guard during World War I.

'Oregon, My Oregon' was written in 1920

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — John A. Buchanan, author of the state song "Oregon, My Oregon," is buried in Ocean View Cemetery.

Until recently, his resting place was marked by a fairly nondescript headstone with his name and years of birth and death.

To make sure people do not forget her grandfather's contri-

but ion to state history, Carol Lambert and the Daughters of the American Revolution raised around \$8,600 for a new headstone, installed Thursday, complete with Buchanan's famous lyrics.

"We've been looking to do this for more than a year," Lambert said, adding that funding for the headstone came from the DAR, Clatsop County Cultural Trust and donations from about 50 people.

Born in Iowa, the sixth of 13 children, Buchanan lived in Missouri and Idaho before moving to Monmouth in 1875. He attended Oregon State

See BUCHANAN, Page 7A



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Andrew Gallaway with OM Stone of Hillsboro makes a minor adjustment to the placement of a new headstone for John A. Buchanan, the author of the state song, on Thursday at Ocean View Cemetery.

